THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The students of MBBS course in Tamil Nadu went on strike to protest against the proposal of the Government regarding compulsory rural posting before grant of permanent registration to doctors.

(c) and (d) In order to elicit opinion of the student community, medical faculty and other stakeholders on the proposal of introduction of compulsory rural posting of fresh medical graduates a High Level Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Director General of Health Services. On the basis of the report submitted by the Committee, to ensure availability of doctors in rural areas of the country, the Government has in principle decided that one year combined rural posting in Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres under the State Government shall be mandatory condition for MBBS doctors for eligibility to admission in Post graduate medical courses.

Medicines at affordable prices

75. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making efforts to develop various forms of medicines as an affordable health tool for the common man;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for this purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Government is committed to overall health benefits to common man. The prime objective of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is to meet this goal through various systems of medicines prevalent/practiced in the country like allopathy, homoeopathy, Unani etc., since health is a State subject, the health departments of State Government also strive for the same. Required funds are provided on annual basis through budgetary allocation to this Ministry. Similarly, the State health departments also get required funds through State Governments.

New Policy for Development of Cottage Industry

76. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has evolved a new policy for the development of cottage industry on the basis of labour intensive techniques;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government would declare any such policy in near future; and

(d) if so, the target of coverage under this policy?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) during 2008-09 has approved the following three new schemes for development and promotion of the khadi and village industry sector through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for implementation:-

(i) "Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)" for creation of additional employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises. The Scheme is being implemented through the KVIC, as the single nodal agency at the national level. At the State/Union Territories level, the scheme is implemented through field offices of KVIC, State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) and Banks. Under this Programme, entrepreneurs can also establish village industries, by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC/ KVIBs of States & Union Territories/ DICs and loans from implementing public sector scheduled commercial Banks, selected regional rural Banks and co-operative Banks, etc., for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 10 lakh each in the service/Business sector and up to Rs.25 lakh each in the manufacturing sector.

(ii) Scheme for "Enhancing Productivity and Competitiveness of Khadi Industry and Artisans" on a pilot basis with the objective, *inter alia*, to make khadi industry more competitive with more market-driven, profitable production and sustained employment for khadi artisans and related service providers by replacement of obsolete and old machinery and equipment and repairs to/renovation of existing/operational machinery and equipment, extend an evenly balanced and need-based support in all areas of Khadi activities *viz*. production, distribution, promotion and capacity building.

(iii) Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans on a pilot basis to provide financial assistance exclusively to the khadi spinners and weavers belonging to below poverty line (BPL) category for construction of worksheds.The details of targets set by KVIC for these three new schemes for year 2008-09, are given below:-

Name of the Scheme	Budget Allocation	Target
PMEGP	Rs. 823 crore	Generation of additional employment opportunities for 6.17 lakh persons
Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans	Rs. 25 crore	10,000 worksheds
Scheme for Enhancing Productivity and Competitiveness of Khadi Industry and Artisans.	Rs. 10 crore	200 Khadi Institutions.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Schemes under Rural Employment Generation Programme

†77. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.